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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 28 | Min 20 | Humidity 72% Scattered Thunderstorms Sensex 66,079 | Nifty 19,689 | Gold 57,532 | Silver 68,840 | Dollar 83.22 | Euro 88.09 | GBP 101.91

As 'pedestrianisation' shrinks Gandhi Bazaar main road, residents & traders complain how 'unscientific infra' is affecting life, livelihoods

SPACE RAZE

'7-day public consultation closed within 3 with no info online'

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KAUSHIK JN

As residents of the area term the pedestrianisation along Gandhi Bazaar main road by DULT as unscientific, businesses suffer and traffic chokes.

Amidst rising opposition, the pedestrianisation part of the wider infrastructure project has been now dropped by the civic body, we are told.

The entire project is being perceived now as a comprehensive traffic management plan.

As part of the project, the road width has been reduced to nearly half. Traders alleged the process has affected their livelihood.

"As per the high court order, they are not supposed to construct anything on the footpath but work has been ongoing. The survey conducted for the project has miscalculations. According to the survey, there are only 8 houses and the rest are all commercial areas; but there are around 30 houses. Before there were 10-ft wide footpaths and now we have 30-40-ft footpaths on either side. Now, 70-80 per cent of people have been given entrance space as per HC instruction. They are now constructing a stage on the footpath," said Guruprasad RK, a resident.

"Due to lack of accessibility, a lot of businesses have vacated the buildings. Nearly 2-3 buildings have emptied out," he added.

Another resident said that 80% of work is completed but few changes were made as per the HC directive. "Already, businesses were suffering due to the non-accessibility of roads and footpaths. Senior citizens used to get injured while walking. Traffic is allowed in some parts and not in some. When sites are allowed, the understanding is that the front portion of the road is accessible. Earlier it used to be a 40 ft road and now it's a 23 ft road with two lanes. At peak hour,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

> **"As per the high court order, they are not supposed to construct anything on the footpath but work has been ongoing..."**
> — Guruprasad RK, resident.

Let the lakes be...

Despite 4-year-long revival, Benniganahalli Lake turns convenient place to immerse Ganesha idols

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Benniganahalli Lake, supposedly a model for other lakes in the city, continues to make headlines on occasion.

The lake was in the news after being selected for a demo of kayaking and canoeing in March 2023. And in last June, sadly, for being a destination to throw animal waste.

Bangalore Mirror published a story – Weeds to water sports – on March 27 and another story – Lake faces toxic trespass – on June 20. Now, it is again in the news. This time, the water body has become a convenient place to immerse Ganesha idols for some.

It is appalling to see huge idols of Ganesha floating in Benniganahalli Lake. If not removed, the water body will be polluted in no time. The floating idols, despite vivid colours, have become an eyesore and a threat to the environment.

Residents of Pai Layout, surrounding areas and volunteers of Benniganahalli Kere Trust have worked hard to keep the lake clean and its vicinity neat but some people continue to dump waste in the lake.

"The people have money to spend on installing huge idols during the festival but have no resources to take such idols to designated places for immersion. Water level in the lake is not more than five feet.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Cosplay season

Comic Con India is presenting the Annual Cosplay Workshop for Bengaluru fans. The event is welcoming cosplay experts, Medha Shrivastava and Sunil Choppala as hosts . The workshop aims for an immersive experience like never before, taking the vibrant world of cosplay to new heights. The workshop is free and open to all. **Where: Vapour, 773, HAL 2nd Stage, 100 Feet Road, Indiranagar; When: October 15; 1 pm to 4 pm**

02 Creative dolls

As people gear up for Dasara celebrations in the city, the annual Dasara doll festival is underway at Tamaala as well as online on the website www.tamaala.com. The festival features handmade dolls by rural artisans from Kolkata, Varanasi, Ettikopakka, Kodapalli, Cuddalore, Thanjavur, Panruti, Channapatna, and Mysuru. Dolls are made from wood, clay, paper mash, ivory wood, or lac-turned wood.
Where: Studio Tamaala, JP Nagar
When: October 7 to 21; 10 am– 9 pm

03 Amazing cartoons

With the idea of creating awareness among citizens about tree plantations, Indian Cartoon Gallery is organising Treetoons. The exhibition features cartoons drawn by a popular cartoonist from Hyderabad, Chiluveru Mrityunjay.
Where: Indian Cartoon Gallery
When: until October 21

Choose the right aid

Study emphasises need for effective emergency services for psychiatric patients; experts say urgent support may prompt family to seek help if patient denies care

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A recent study conducted at a psychiatric hospital in the city highlights the need for effective psychiatric emergency services for patients dealing with mental health issues. Despite the enactment of the Mental Health Act in 2017, which aimed to protect the rights of those with mental illness and ensure their access to treatment and transportation to mental health facilities, the availability of psychiatric emergency services remains limited in many hospitals. The study sheds light on how effective emergency services for psychiatry patients can help them overcome their problems and avail themselves of the appropriate treatment.

The study involved both qualitative and quantitative aspects, with input from 30 families who had availed of emergency services at the Cadabams Hospital in JP Nagar. The study was carried out last month, with supported data between January and August 2023. Over 60% of the patients involved in the study were male, while 40% were female. About 40% of the patients were aged between 20 and 50 years old.

The patients who came with illnesses had major mental illnesses like schizophrenia or bipolar disorder, and the other groups had substance use disorders that included excessive alcohol or drug consumption.

Over 55% of the patients and their families had approached other healthcare institutions in the city seeking similar kinds of emergency services; however, most of the hospitals did not have emergency services. Hospitals lacked the necessary infrastructure, including psychiatric teams and ambulance services. Instead, they were advised to transport patients directly to the hospitals. In contrast, the remaining 45% of patients went directly to Cadabams Hospital's psychiatric emergency services.

The study showcased that without emergency admission, 22% of respondents admitted they might have engaged in self-harm

The study showcased that without emergency admission, 22% of respondents admitted they might have engaged in self-harm or suicide, while 20% could have posed a risk to others who were getting physically aggressive, particularly family members.

Dr Sunil MR, Director and Incharge of Clinical Services at Cadabams Hospital and Deaddiction Centre, said, "The need for emergency services that prompted the family to seek help was because the patient was not willing to receive treatment. The patient had stopped taking medication and was symptomatic, displaying threatening or self-harming behaviour. Some individuals exhibited extravagant spending habits unnecessarily; in one case, a person spent Rs 60–65 lakh on shopping."

Other problems included the patients not adhering to personal hygiene and ceasing social interactions, in addition to self-harming tendencies. While the patients faced these issues, their families also went through intense psychological turmoil, he added.

In one of the cases at Cadabams Hospital, a lady was suffering from bipolar disorder and had stopped taking medication. When her husband asked her to take medication and follow up with a psychiatrist, the lady got aggressive, locked her and her five-year-old daughter in the balcony, and threatened to jump off the balcony.

The husband reached out to the police for help, but they stated that as it was a psychiatric case, only hospitals could help. After which, the husband reached out to the hospital, and a therapist called the lady and engaged with her to try to calm her down. Meanwhile, the psychiatric team reached the house, calmed the lady, and took her to the hospital. She was given the necessary treatment and is doing well now.

> **"In India, such cooperation is rare, and we also lack the necessary emergency services**
> – Dr Sunil MR, Cadabams Hospital

Dr Sunil explained, "In countries like the USA or UK, during psychiatric emergencies, a police officer is often involved due to the potential harm the patient may pose to themselves or others. However, in India, such cooperation is rare, and we also lack the necessary emergency services. In Bengaluru, only two hospitals offer psychiatric emergency services."

Setback for lake revival

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

How do they expect to immerse idols of six or eight feet in the lake?'' asked Balaji Raghotham, a lake activist.

Expressing concern and disgust over dumping of idols into Benniganahalli Lake, Anupama VL, treasurer of Benniganahalli Kere Community Development Trust said the volunteers across all age groups and residents were able to revive the lake after four years of continuous effort. We have also tied up with Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) and ensured that walking tracks, play areas, open gym, gazebo, fencing and all amenities were created.

This involved a lot of time, effort, coordination between various stakeholders and money. In order to ensure these efforts do not go in vain we request BBMP to fence the flyover above the lake area to ensure no dumping is possible. Clean up the idols immersed in the lake recently. We are planning an inaugural event for the beautified lake bund; this recent development has brought pain and agony to all volunteers and walkers at the lake,'' said Anupama.

Benniganahalli Kere Community Development Trust secretary NH Surbamanian said the people who dumped Ganesha idols in the lake have no sense and responsibility: "The lake is yet to be handed over to the BBMP lakes department by Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited. If it happens, a few corporate companies can come forward to take up the maintenance of the lake, so incidents of dumping waste into the lake can be prevented,'' said Subramanian.Meanwhile, BBMP executive engineer (lakes) Bhooprada said people should take Ganesha idols to lakes that have idol immersion ponds or utilise the services of mobile idol immersion tanks. "I will take measures to remove the idols from the lake,'' the engineer said.

Ganesha idols floating in the Benniganahalli Lake

Branching out or falling short?

Local activists, experts worry that BBMP's tree census may fall short of conservation goals

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The BBMP's tender document for Bengaluru's tree census has raised concerns among local tree activists and environmentalists. They argue that the document's specifications will result in an incomplete effort that fails to achieve the desired results.

Experts emphasise that the purpose of the census is not just to count the total number of trees in the city but also to ensure the conservation of green areas. This can only be achieved by documenting information such as the tree species, crown spread, and growth rate, considering factors like soil conditions and age.

According to BBMP, the census will only focus on the tree's girth and species name to be entered into an application developed by the Karnataka Remote Sensing Institute. The application will then generate a unique ID for each tree.

"The project is in line with Karnataka High Court's observations. We need to know the total number of trees that the city is left with. Moreover, the age of a tree can be deduced using the tree's girth value. Parameters such as canopy diameter and the health of trees are monitored by BBMP's tree canopy management team.

The need of the hour is to get the census done without further delay. It will also help us ascertain the condition of trees planted under the compensatory plantation scheme," said BLG Swamy, DCF, Forest Dept, BBMP

However, city-based tree experts deem it necessary for the census to cover other parameters, too, such as the approximate age of the tree, the date on which the presence of the tree was recorded, the canopy of the tree in diameter, economic value, botanical name, flowering seasons, etc.

Bangalore Mirror

BBMP floats tender for long awaited enumeration of trees in city, covering an area of 9761.6 sq km, in 8 zones

ONE, TWO, TREE...

'Chip not hip'

> **"BBMP must look at parameters such as the age of the tree, the date on which the presence of the tree was recorded, the diameter of the canopy, economic value, botanical name, flowering seasons"**
>
> — Dattatreya Devare, Trustee of Bangalore Environment Trust

"There are a certain minimum number of parameters that should be documented for good-quality data. BBMP must look at including parameters such as the approximate age of the tree, the date on which the presence of the tree was recorded, the canopy of the tree in diameter, economic value, botanical name, flowering seasons," said Dattatreya Devare, trustee of Bangalore Environment Trust.

Tree activists say the purpose of the project should also be to maintain diversity and ensure ecological balance. In the absence of details, it will be difficult to comprehend or implement measures that will restore the balance.

Promising reply

According to BBMP officials, the tender has received an encouraging response, and many agencies have come forward, showing their willingness to be a part of the project.

"We will be documenting tree species, and this will help in biodiversity studies in the future, too. The tender was floated on October 7, and we already have received many queries from various agencies. We will soon be awarding the work order, and tree counting will begin from November tentatively," added Swamy.

Dark streets, dark deeds: Bellandur's nightmare

The Bellandur police have registered an FIR against unidentified criminals who attempted to rob passengers inside a car, threatening them with stones. The incident occurred on the Doddakanahalli-Chikkanayakanahalli road, close to Primus School. The assailant was seen stopping the vehicle while carrying a stone, and the entire episode was recorded on the car's dashboard camera.

A 31-second video of the incident was shared on the social media platform X (formerly Twitter) by East Bengaluru's Citizens Movement. Their tweet expressed concern over the incident, "The robbers attempted to stop a car while holding stones. However, upon noticing the dashcam, they left the family inside the car untouched. Please swiftly apprehend the culprits and intensify police patrolling in the Bellandur police station jurisdiction."

"These troublemakers seem to be aware that they won't face consequences. What's even more concerning is that this incident occurred just 300m from a Bellandur Police outpost," they added.

Additionally, they raised the issue of non-functional streetlights on the internal roads in the area. Residents have repeatedly requested street lights, but no action has been taken. Abhinav Gupta, a resident, said, "There have been multiple requests for street lights and a good road, but all fell on deaf ears. Request authorities to put some focus on this part of Bengaluru as well. This area is not just for collecting taxes alone."

This incident is not the first of its kind in the area, with residents claiming that this stretch has become notorious for theft and robbery. "Multiple incidents have occurred, but no Police patrolling or better infrastructure provided in this area," said Mukherjee, a resident. Another resident of the area, Rahul, added, "The question is how are these miscreants encouraged to commit such crimes repeatedly. This audacity exhibited at 6 pm in such a non-remote location raises questions." **BMB**

Seeking college admission? Beware of frauds

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Fraudsters operate methodically, akin to call centre, luring aspirants with promises of seats

With admission season here, Bengaluru police have uncovered a new medical and engineering seat admission scam. According to police officials, victims are losing lakhs of hard-earned money in this scam.

Aspirants for seats in medicine and engineering colleges should beware of fraudsters extorting money through technology. In a new ploy, the fraud networks of criminals are targeting these aspirants directly. Officials said that they work in a much organised manner, akin to a call centre company.

As technology brings accessibility closer to people, they are becoming more vulnerable to new scams. Within the jurisdiction of the Central Division, police officials have arrested four culprits in this regard.

"We uncovered a racquet running on Cunningham Road. After the NEET exam, these cybercriminals hunt for students with no seats. Further, the victims get a call or SMS from the cybercriminals. They make offers for various types of seats for a sum of money. Victims are given assurance of the seat and are convinced with a fake blank cheque. Two to three police stations have reported such instances," said a senior police official.

The Central Division has arrested four people running the scam from Cunningham Road and found Rs 10 lakh in this case. Fraudsters had established an office-like setup where the victims were called to offer the fake blank cheque. They have seized Rs 4.5 lakh and frozen Rs 3.5 lakh. During the office search, they also seized laptops, mobile phones, fake ID cards, and various bank cheques.

While police officials are not calling it an instance of cybercrime, they note that fraudsters were tactful with the use of technology.

Police officials are currently investigating the case, and the number of victims is yet to be known. But officials say that people are losing lakhs of rupees to this scam.

With the aim of protecting the people from such scams, police officials request that the public inform them to take immediate action. "Bengaluru city police have already busted several such networks of fraudsters. If any unknown person contacts you on the pretext of offering a seat, inform the police immediately and provide details. This enables us to track down such fraudsters, arrest, and prosecute them," said Bengaluru Police Commissioner, B Dayananda in an online podcast.

On road to work: Battling endless traffic snarls

Commuters complain of delays while commuting to Electronic City Flyover; say it takes 45 minutes to cover 200-metre stretch during peak hours

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Many officegoers using the 5th Cross Road in the area say they are witnessing massive traffic congestion due to ongoing cabling work on a stretch leading to the Electronic City flyover

The residents of Electronic City are living through a similar nightmare that hit commuters on the Outer Ring Road tech corridor two weeks ago. Many officegoers using the 5th Cross Road in the area say they are witnessing massive traffic congestion due to ongoing cabling work on a stretch leading to the Electronic City flyover.

Commuters say they are getting stuck for hours due to traffic mismanagement on a stretch with high vehicular movement.

"My office is located behind Electronic City D-Mart. On a normal day, the commute to my office takes around 45 minutes to an hour. However, I have been spending nearly two hours in the morning since Monday. Traffic is getting gridlocked in the area, causing a lot of inconvenience," said Parthiban Shivaprakasham, a commuter.

"I live in Whitefield and commute to Electronic City Phase I every day for work. It takes me nearly 50 minutes to reach the office. However, since Monday, my commute to work has cost me two hours. I waited for more than 45 minutes to cover the last 200-metre stretch to my office. Even then, the traffic did not clear, and I had to take a nearly seven-kilometre-long diversion to reach the office," said another commuter on the stretch.

> **"On a normal day, the commute to my office takes around 45 minutes to an hour. However, I have been spending nearly two hours since Monday**
> – Parthiban Shivaprakasham, a commuter

The situation has left many red-faced. Many added that the same stretch was dug up a few months ago, leading to traffic congestion. While it was resolved over a few days, it is different this time.

Some recounted the ORR horror and said the situation was similar.

"I was stuck for three hours on ORR Road on September 27, and now I am spending two hours every morning to reach my office. They had dug open the stretch a few months ago as well, and it took nearly ten days for the work to get over. However, this time, the pit is deeper and bigger, and it looks like it won't get sorted anytime soon. Commuting to work is going to be a nightmare till then," said another commuter.

No trace of space in Gandhi Bazaar

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

there are at least 5,000 vehicles," said Mukunda, a resident.

He criticised the public consultation and added that objections were not taken into consideration. "The public consultation was expected to take place for seven days but it was closed within three. The information about the public consultation was not uploaded on the website."

A building owner on the Gandhi Bazaar main road told BM that tenants have stopped paying rent for the past six months. "In front of the market, a large structure has been constructed, preventing entry of customers. They are calling it a social/children's play area. Children playing could run into oncoming traffic. Previously we had issues about no parking spaces but offices have vacated and tenants have refused to pay rent for the past six months stating they have been unavailable to run the business. Everywhere, roads are being widened to meet vehicular requirements, only here the roads are shrinking," said Krishnamurthy, a building owner. Residents and traders also complained of insufficient space for movement of buses. As part of the comprehensive development, a half-bus bay has been built on the road.

They said with the footpaths widened and the main carriageway reduced, the bus bay constructed will be ineffective. Previously, the road width extended from storm drain to stormwater drain but now the carriageway in the marketplace that sees more than 5,000 vehicles an hour during peak hours has been reduced to 8.2 ft road.

Additionally, footpaths have been constructed on either side of the road that are around 30-40 ft wide. In the reduced-width road, a bus stop with a half-bay has been erected. Currently, bi-directional traffic is being allowed on the road; traders are of the view that it's going to turn into traffic chaos as buses are permitted on the stretch.

While DULT and BBMP carried out the project despite public objection, Bengaluru Traffic Police told BM that they only permitted white topping the road. "We had only permitted white-topping. All other works are being carried out under the same permission. There was no need to reduce the carriageway and they could have made the existing road better," said joint commissioner of police (traffic), MN Anucheth.

Sidewalk construction under way at Gandhi Bazaar

Residents pointed out that while they suspect a chokepoint, BMTC should take a final call. "The area near the bus bay is going to be a chokepoint. There is no regulatory body that will ensure that buses will stop in bus bays. There could be traffic congestion with an additional bus on the stretch. Nearly 65 bus routes on this stretch and BMTC should have been a party to the design. They should do a dry run before allowing buses. The congestion will percolate to other circles," said Benne Sudhindra, a trader and resident.

Traders fear visitors would be discouraged from coming to the bustling Gandhi Bazaar with congested roads. The congestion could further lead to accidents and road rage, they said. When BM visited the spot, there was rampant parking of vehicles on both sides of the road, further reducing the available space.

A multi-level parking at the old flower market area is planned at a cost of Rs 20 crore.

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Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Drain distress
Vasanthnagar

The stormwater drain from Taj West End to Sindhi Seva School on Crescent Road in Ward 93, Vasanthnagar, faces issues due to an unwanted sidewall construction, clogging, and an unbearable stench.

Illegal chopping
Sahakarnagar

Illegal mango tree felling alarms residents near Union Bank, Sahakarnagar.

Stench peril
Vasanthnagar

The unbearable stench from the garbage collection point on Dr MH Ambareesh Road near Race Course Gate 4, in Vasanthnagar's Ward 93, raises health concerns among residents.

THE TIMES GROUP

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Congratulations

What an idea! Draining a lake to desilt wetland

Activists appeal BBMP lakes dept to stop wasting precious water from Seegehalli Lake, start desilting only in Jan or Feb

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Not many lakes in the city are filled to the brim due to a deficit of rain. Water in lakes plays an important role in increasing the groundwater table in the nearby areas. It is the responsibility of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Lakes Department to preserve lakes. However, the BBMP Lakes Department has made arrangements to drain water from Seegehalli Lake to facilitate the removal of silt from the adjoining wetland. Draining precious water from Seegehalli Lake has invited wrath and criticism from environmentalists and lake activists.

On Tuesday morning, a group of lake activists were seen filling a gap between a manhole and lake bund of Seegehalli Lake with boulders and wooden sheets. They expressed shock and disgust over draining water from the lake. "We have been complaining to the BBMP Lakes Department about draining water from the lake. If the lake becomes empty and dry, it will be tough for us to water saplings and trees around the lake bund. Private water tankers refuse to supply water. Most of the saplings planted will be withered in summer if we do not provide water. We have been appealing to the BBMP Lakes Department to commence desilting of wetland in January or February," said Balaji Raghotham, a lake activist.

Broken bund of Seegehalli Lake is covered with boulders & wooden sheets

Expressing concern and shock over wasting water, Nagaraj MH, a resident of Gayathri Layout, said the BBMP Lakes Department has not taken measures to prevent water flowing from the lake despite complaints from lake activists and residents. "I have complained to the BBMP Lakes Department to prevent water from flowing out from the lake. The BBMP Lakes Department has allowed the contractor to breach the bund to let out water from the lake. Their intention is to facilitate desilting of wetland that has been pending for a quite long time," said Nagaraj.

Blaming the BBMP Lakes Department for neglecting Seegehalli Lake, Balaraj R, a resident of Seegehalli, has complained to the BBMP Lakes Department about the wasting of lake water. "The BBMP Lakes Department has been delaying the desilting of the wetland for quite a long time. I have also told the contractor to fill up the gap between the manhole and the lake to stop water flowing from the lake," said Balaraj.

> **The BBMP Lakes Department has been delaying the desilting of the wetland for quite a long time**
> — Balaraj R, Seeghahalli resident

Meanwhile, BBMP Lakes Department executive engineer Bhooprada has said that she has already instructed the contractor to close the gap between the manhole and the lake bund. "We have decided to postpone desilting of the wetland till summer. We waited till September to commence the desilting of the wetland. We expected to commence the desilting this month but there is no respite from rain. It is better to take up desilting of the wetland in summer," said the BBMP executive engineer.

Umbrellas out for a few more days in city

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KAUSHIK JN

Many areas in the city received rainfall, and it may continue for the next few days. A Prasad, a scientist from IMD, said, "There was a trough that ran from Rayalaseema to Kanyakumari, bringing heavy rainfall; however, it has weakened. Meanwhile, there is a shear zone on Rayalaseema at an altitude of 900 meters, and due to its influence, it may rain in south interior regions for the next two days. However, the rain intensity will decrease in the next few days. Bengaluru may have cloudy weather, and it may rain, especially in the evenings." Due to heavy rainfall, many areas in the City were flooded especially the underpasses where the motorists had a tough time moving ahead.

Kalaburgi recorded the highest maximum temperature of 35.8oC in the state, while Vijayapura recorded the lowest minimum temperature of 18.0oC in the plains of the state. The maximum temperature is likely to be above normal by 2-4 degrees at a few places over Bagalkot, Dharwad, Gadag, Kalaburgi, and Koppal districts of North Interior Karnataka, above normal by 2-3 degrees at isolated places over Mandya, Hassan, Chitradurga, Davangere, and Mysuru districts of South Interior Karnataka, and over Uttara Kannada, Udupi districts of Coastal Karnataka. Bengaluru may receive one or two spells of rain/thundershowers very likely towards evening/night. Maximum and Minimum temperatures are very likely to be around 29 and 21 degrees Celsius, respectively.

Prasad added that the southwest monsoon was active over South Interior Karnataka and was weak over Coastal Karnataka and north Interior Karnataka. Rainfall occurred at many places over South Interior Karnataka and at isolated places over Coastal Karnataka. Dry weather prevailed over North Interior Karnataka. Heavy rainfall amounts (in cm): Hunsur (Mysuru dt) 9; Sravanabelagola (Hassan dt) 8; Devanahalli (Bengaluru Rural dt), Bengaluru City 7 each. Other chief rainfall amounts (in cm): Bengaluru HAL Airport, Srirangapatna (Mandya dt) 6 each; Bengaluru KIAL, Electronic City ARG, KSNDMC Campus (Bengaluru Urban dt) 5 each. Kollegal (Chamarajanagar dt), Ramanagara, Suttur Aws (Mysuru dt), Maddur, Malavalli (both Mandya dt), Uttarahalli, GKVK (both Bengaluru Urban dt), Kanakapura (Ramanagara dt) 4 each; Hunchadakatte (Shivamogga dt), Harangi (Kodagu dt) 2 each.

KIA Road booth is exacting a steep toll indeed

Despite numerous toll collection booths surrounding the city, the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) road toll booth become a goldmine for concessionaires, emerging as the top revenue generator for toll collection through FASTag in India and this is the only one from Bengaluru surroundings to be figuring in the top 100 highest grossing toll booths in the country. With a staggering collection of Rs. 230.30 crore, the Devanahalli Toll Plaza secures the 15th position nationwide in the financial year 2022-23. Out of the 100 user fee plazas across the country during this period, surprisingly only five toll plazas have achieved such remarkable success.

Karjeevanhalli Toll Plaza (Tumkura-Sira road) grabs the 23rd spot with a collection of Rs. 209.41 crore, followed by the Guilalu Toll Plaza (near Chitradurga) securing the 61st spot with a collection of Rs. 151.68 crore. The Hirebagewadi (near Kittur) Toll Plaza claims the 89th position, having collected a sum of Rs. 131.32 crore.

An official said, "The remarkable feat of these toll plazas exemplifies the growing acceptance and popularity of FASTag, the electronic toll collection system, among commuters and road users. These collections signify a significant shift towards a more efficient and seamless toll collection process on highways and roads, ultimately benefiting both travellers and the development of the state's infrastructure."

The highest toll collection across India was reported from L&T Vadodara Gujarat where Rs. 455.94 crore was collected in a financial year. On a national scale, Uttar Pradesh leads the pack in FASTag collections, amassing a collection of Rs. 5,583.43 crore. In contrast, Himachal Pradesh reports the lowest FASTag collection, amounting to a modest sum of just Rs. 55.64 crore. Among the listed states, Karnataka secures the ninth position in FASTag collections, with an impressive revenue of Rs 3,516.79 crore.

The FASTag system introduction, and the collection began in the Financial Year 2016-17. Presently, 97.6% of fee collection is being done through FASTag, indicating its widespread adoption and success. As of year 2022-23, the toll collection reached an all-time high of Rs 48,028.19 crore. —BMB

Barrier-less toll in future?

The Central government is planning to introduce barrier-less toll collection in the future. According to a Lok Sabha reply by Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari, the Ministry has undertaken a pilot project on the Delhi-Meerut Expressway for tolling using Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras linked to FASTag. He stated, "A consultant has been engaged for barrier-less tolling with the use of ANPR cameras and satellite navigation tolling. A team of experts are working on the legal changes."

You cannot have a 'blast' at weddings, processions

State government decides to ban use of firecrackers, asks officials to ensure safety norms are followed during Deepawali

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File photo of a cracker stall in the city ahead of Deepawali. This year, inspections are going to be stricter

It is a common practice to burst crackers during processions (religious or political) as well as during weddings. However, now the State Government has decided to ban the use of firecrackers during processions and in wedding halls. Following the tragic cracker blast at a shop near Attibele, the government has also asked officials to ensure all the safety guidelines are met in view of the upcoming Deepawali festival.

Following a high-level meeting held in the City on Tuesday, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah asked officials to take all necessary precautionary measures. He said that the officials should do a thorough examination to see if all the rules were followed as per the Explosives Act and inspect the spot before granting licences.

Additionally, he instructed Deputy Commissioners, Superintendents of police, and fire brigade officers to conduct on-site inspections when issuing licences. "The decision to grant a licence should be based on the correctness of the inspection report. There is a need for statewide inspection and licenses should be cancelled for those not following safety norms. In Bengaluru city, there are two types of licences for permanent and temporary shops. Licenses, issued every five years, require a no-objection letter from BBMP, Electricity, Fire and police departments. Renewals do not require a no-objection letter, and the Controller of Explosives oversees updates. We need to amend this and hence we will urge the Centre to allow state governments to make necessary amendments."

Three officials suspended

Siddaramaiah on Tuesday also ordered the suspension of Anekal Tahsildar, a jurisdictional police inspector and the regional fire officer in the wake of the blaze at the cracker godown-cum-shop.

The CM also said notices have been issued to the Deputy Commissioner of Bengaluru Urban district who issued the licence to the cracker shop owner as well as the Superintendent of Police, apparently seeking explanation about the incident that also left three people critically injured. He said the shopkeeper had the license to sell crackers and not for godown. The shopkeeper had stored 7,000 to 8,000 kg of crackers there, which he had brought from Tamil Nadu.

The day the incident took place, a truckload of crackers had come and it was being unloaded by people from Tamil Nadu, majority of whom were the poor students, who were paid Rs 600 per day, the Chief Minister said.

"There were lapses on the part of the Tahsildar, (Police) Inspector and the Fire Officer. I have given instructions to suspend all the three. The DC who issued the licence, and the SP concerned should be served notices," he said. **(With agency inputs)**

Ganesha idol processions halted

Bengaluru city police department authorities have decided not to allow Ganesha idol processions and DJ dances across the city after a series of incidents, including riots, were reported during the festival in the city. An order in this regard was issued by the city police commissioner, B Dayanand, following the reports of incidents of violences. Dayanand has directed all the police in the city not to allow Ganesha processions from now on. He said that if the Ganesha idol is paraded or there is a commotion despite the refusal of permission by the police, the inspector of the respective police station will be responsible. Reportedly, during the Ganesha procession, there was commotion in many parts of the city. There were clashes in many places including Halasur, Yediyur, and Adugodi areas.

IN BRIEF

4 held for theft at temple

Four men were detained by the Ashok Nagar police in connection with a theft at the Shantinagar Jain temple. All the suspects hail from Rajasthan. Of the six accused, one was a builder who had arrived in Bengaluru six months earlier to work on the temple's renovation. According to reports, police zeroed in on him after reviewing CCTV footage from the day of the theft. The suspects were seen carrying bags on the night of the heist in the CCTV footage. Police have recovered 14 kg silver jewellery worth Rs 9 lakh from them. The thieves had taken ornaments worth Rs 42 lakh from the shrine. Two of the suspects are yet to be nabbed.
— BMB

BBMP's role: Bus shelter was not stolen

The brand-new bus shelter on Cunningham Road that was said to be stolen was actually taken down by Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) officials due to safety concerns, according to the police. As a result, the theft complaint filed in the matter has been closed by the Bengaluru police.

The steel bus shelter built on August 21 had been reported missing during an inspection on August 28. N Ravi Reddy, associate vice-president of Signpost India Pvt Ltd, the business in charge of building BMTC bus shelters, had reported the matter to the police on September 30.

The executive engineer of the BBMP's Shivajinagar zone has been called in for questioning. The officer claimed that on August 22, inspectors discovered that the shelter had not been built correctly and was endangering the public. — BMB

Going full steam ahead: Surge in Metro riders

Ridership from Baiyappanahalli to Whitefield stood at 61,179 on Monday; before, average daily ridership here was 28,000

Rachana Ramesh
c-rachana.ramesh
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Following the commencement of passenger operations on the long-anticipated Kengeri-Challaghatta and Baiyappanahalli-KR Pura stretches, a substantial increase in daily ridership for the Metro is anticipated. The ridership from Baiyappanahalli to Whitefield stood at 61,179 on October 9, the first day of operations. Prior to this, the average daily ridership on the section stood at a mere 28,000 due to the lack of connection between KR Pura and Baiyappanahalli. The Metro's average daily ridership has seen a rise in the past few months, reaching a record 6.11 lakh in July. Daily ridership is expected to reach 7.5 lakh since the two new stretches have been thrown open to the public. On Monday, the total ridership of the Metro stood at 6,80,894.

Man on metro rails

On Tuesday morning, X users highlighted the incident of a man standing on the Metro's Purple Line. Vinay Kumar, a netizen, posted a picture of the person standing in the active line and said he spotted the person adjacent to the KR Pura Bridge at 8.04 am. Users soon became suspicious and grew concerned over the safety of the person and the running Metro trains as the man did not bear any safety gear and was dressed in civilian clothes. The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL). They said, "Who is this person, and what is he doing on an operational Purple Line at 8:04 am today? (Spotted by a follower). He doesn't seem to be an authorised person from BMRCL or the construction company (no safety gear/apron). Very concerning." Soon after the issue began making rounds on social media sites, BMRCL Chief Public Relations Officer (PRO) Yashwanth Chavan clarified that the person is a maintainer authorised by the BMRCL. "He is a BMRCL authorised competent maintainer who was in the uniform of a trainee along with a competent junior engineer, who was deputed to check that location after following all safety procedures," he said.
— BMB

HC fumes over govt failure to provide basic infra at schools

The High Court of Karnataka has observed that the government's failure to provide basic infrastructure in schools is pushing people who cannot even afford three meals a day to send their children to private schools.

"Is education reserved for the privileged," the HC bench of Chief Justice Prasanna B Varale and Justice Krishna S Dixit questioned while hearing a public interest litigation initiated by the court in 2013 based on media reports about children who were left out of the schooling system.

The court said that the deficiencies in government schools regarding the lack of restrooms and drinking water facilities were brought to its notice in 2013 but action has been lacking.

Till date, 464 government schools lack restrooms and 32 do not have drinking water facilities, the court pointed out. Expressing its displeasure at the government's inaction, the court directed that an affidavit on providing basic facilities in all schools should be filed within eight weeks.

"Is it for us to tell all this to the state? This has been going on for so many years. There must have been some amount shown in the budget for the schooling and education department. What happens to that amount," the court said on Monday.

During the hearing, while referring to the state government's free schemes for the poor, the court said it had no qualms about such measures but providing necessary facilities and infrastructure in schools where poor students study should be of paramount importance.

"Education is a fundamental right. But governments have failed to provide the facilities in government schools which are turning the poor towards private schools," the court said. This was indirectly helping private schools, it said.

"Because of the lack of basic facilities, the government schools are closed. On the other hand, as there is no other option, parents even when they are financially not well or sound are left with no choice but to admit their wards to the alternate private schools. The learned counsel is also justified in submitting that such a situation frustrates the object of making primary education a fundamental right as ensured in the Constitution of India," the court recorded in its order.

The High Court said that Babasaheb Ambedkar is shown with a book in every image of his which was to show the importance of education. Many developed countries spend more on education than on defence, the court observed.

Allowing time for the comprehensive report by the government, the court recorded that, "The government advocate submits that as the copy of the report prepared by the learned amicus is handed over to her, she will personally look into it and call up the concerned government officials." **PTI**

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I, HARINATH RAMACHANDRAIAH PABBATHI S/o Ramachandraiah Shetty Pabathi, R/at No.4043, Prestige South Ridge, Hosakerehalli Cross, BSK 3rd Stage, Bangalore- 560085, have changed my name to HARINATH PABBATHI vide affidavit dated: 10/10/2023 Before Notary V.Rajashekhara Bangalore.

I, KANJI CHOUDHARY R/at Flat No.1003, 10th Floor, Tower -1A, Candeur Carlisle S.No.195/1, Mahadevapura, Bangalore- 560048, have changed my minor son's name from DEV to DEV CHOUDHARY vide affidavit dated: 29/9/2023 Before Notary K.V.Mani Bangalore.

I, KANJI CHOUDHARY R/at Flat No.1003, 10th Floor, Tower -1A, Candeur Carlisle S.No.195/1, Mahadevapura, Bangalore-560048, have changed my minor son's name from DWIJ to DWIJ CHOUDHARY vide affidavit dated: 29/9/2023 Before Notary K.V.Mani Bangalore.

I, Rishank Jayannavar R/o No.2112, Vishveswaraiah extd Lyt, 9th block, 3rd cross, Mallathahalli, Bengaluru 560056 have changed my name to Rishank Ravindra Reddy Jayannavar, affidavit Dt.10/10/2023 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, NISHA, W/o NITESH KUMAR, resident at N103 Tower 7, Mayflower, Adarsh Palm Retreat, Devarabisanahalli, Bellandur, Bengaluru - 560103, have changed my name as NISHA MAHTO, vide affidavit dated 10.10.2023, sworn before notary S. Subashini, Bengaluru.

I, Anuradha Subramniam Iyer R/o No.18, 6th cross, Azadnagar, near TR mill, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru 560018 have changed my name to Anuradha Krishnan Balakrishnan affidavit Dt.10/10/2023 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, JYOTHI RAJESWARAIAH W/o Gangadhar.K.K R/at No.1204, 35th B Cross, 28th Main, 4th T Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore- 560041, have changed my name to JYOTHI vide affidavit dated: 10/10/2023 Before Notary V.Rajashekhara Bangalore.

I, Diwakara Govindappa S/o Govindappa R/o Karethimmanahalli, Hulikunte hobli, Sira Tq, Tumakuru 572113 have changed my name to Divakar Govindappa affidavit Dt.10/10/2023 notary Harisha G, Bengaluru, present camp at Bengaluru

I, MABEL JOSNA KAALLA D/o Kalla John Prasad & W/o Bharath S K R/at No.568, 16th Main, Manjunath Nagar, WOC, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560010 have changed my name to NAVYA BHARATH, Vide affidavit dated 10.10.2023 before notary Renuka .C, B.lore.

I, Kuthoor Joseph Elizabeth W/o Kurshingal Peter Joseph Henry R/o #49, 19th Cross , Appayanna Layout Kammagondanahalli, Abbigere, B'lore-560090 have changed my name to Kuthoor Joseph Elizabeth Henry

I, Kalpana Bachegowda Ashwathnarayangowda W/o late Marappa Ramu R/o Meghana Acs Shalini Apts S-1804, 18th Floor, Kadirenahalli Cross P N Nagar, B'luru-560070 have changed my name to Kalpana Ramu for all purposes.

I, Nagar Mamta Champalal W/o Chetan Nagar R/o No.26, Sri Krishna lake view layout, Chikkadevasandra, KR Puram, Bengaluru 560036 have changed my name to Mamta Nagar affidavit Dt.10/10/2023 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Uday Kumar K s/o Narayan K R/o No.18, 5th main, 4th cross, Hanumagiri, Chikkallasandra, Bengaluru 560061 have changed my name to Uday Kumar Narayan, affidavit Dt.10/10/2023 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I POLUKURI ADILAKSHMI W/o Lokaraju Rachakonda R/o Thataguni, Bengaluru have changed my name from Palkur Adilakshmi to POLUKURI ADILAKSHMI for all future purposes.

I, Hemanth Kiran Kumar Ramaraju S/o Ravi Shankar Ramaraju R/o L010, Godrej Ecity, Doddathogur, Electronic City Phase 1, B'lore-560100 have changed my name to Hemanth Ramaraju for all purposes

I Gregory Joseph Jaya Kumar Abraham S/o Abraham R/o Kombai Nagar, Martalli, Hanur, Chamarajnagr 571444. Have changed my name to Gregory Joseph for all future purposes.

I, K Manoj Kumar S/o K Kaki naidu R/o 94,kommaghatta Kuntamaramma Temple, Kommaghatta, Bengaluru, 560060 have changed my name to Manoj Kumar Annaiyappa

I Nazeer Ahamed Abdul Baseer S/O, Abdul Baseer R/o No 18 Coffee Board Colony Shampur Main Road Near Quba Masjid Bangalore 560045 have changed my name to Nazeer Ahmed.

I, Priya Abbas W/o Nazar Abbas, R/o No.16, Cockburn Road, Abbas Towers, Apartment No. 208, Bangalore - 560051 have changed my name to Zainab Abbas.

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HEALTH TIP: Consuming excessive processed foods, sugary snacks, and high-calorie, low-nutrient meals can leave you feeling tired

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PARENTAL GUIDANCE

Defining what counts as verbal abuse will help prevent harmful parenting

A recent research paper has found that verbal abuse of children, including shouting at them and calling them names, is linked to low mood, drug abuse and delinquency (antisocial behaviour).

The authors of the new study argue that because verbal abuse is considered as a part of emotional abuse (a category which includes many different types of harmful behaviour towards children, such as manipulating them, humiliating them and giving them the silent treatment) it is overlooked and a "hidden problem".

They state that childhood verbal abuse should be recognised as its own category of child maltreatment.

While there are limitations to the research study, it's well designed and important, especially in helping to define this type of emotional abuse.

Understanding maltreatment

Children who are maltreated – who suffer abuse and neglect – are more likely to encounter issues such as poor mental health later in life. One study has suggested that a global reduction of maltreatment by 25 per cent could prevent 80 million cases of anxiety and depression worldwide.

Governments have tried to reduce maltreatment by making certain types of harsh parenting practices illegal. For instance, smacking is banned in Scotland and Wales. However, smacking is a fairly easily defined behaviour. It's less easy to tackle the behaviour that makes up emotional abuse.

But when we ask adults whether they experienced abuse or neglect while growing up, more than a third will say that they experienced emotional abuse. This makes it the most common type of abuse reported by adults.

The study authors argue that by defining the behaviour from adults that counts as childhood verbal abuse, this behaviour can be changed – for instance through parent training programmes.

Defining the problem

The research study is a systematic review – a scholarly study which gathers together and summarises the results of existing research findings on a particular subject.

Individual research studies can arrive at different conclusions. This can be confusing, especially when there are hundreds of studies in a field of research. A systematic review helps to make sense of all the available evidence and find patterns.

The authors included 149 quantitative and six qualitative studies on the topic, and found they used 21 different terms to define child verbal abuse. The most common behaviours included yelling and screaming.

Threatening words, name calling and criticising were other common behaviours. Hardly any studies included behaviours where adults did not raise their voice.

The authors also identified the most common standardised questionnaires used by researchers to measure verbal abuse. Standardised measures have the advantage of having been tried and tested as reliable measures – for instance, on whether people will respond in a similar way when given the same questionnaire twice within a couple of weeks.

One problem the researchers identified was that half of the studies they surveyed used a non-standardised questionnaire, where it wasn't clear how good the measure was.

As results from research studies can be affected by other factors such as genetic risk or other types of abuse, it is important that multiple studies come to the same conclusion if scientists are to make recommendations.

In this research study, for the age group including children and younger teenagers, only four studies linked verbal abuse to delinquent behaviour. Across all age groups, eight studies reported a link between verbal abuse and depression. It is therefore important that more research is carried out to back up these findings.

Another problem is that most studies were cross-sectional instead of longitudinal. Cross-sectional studies only assess people at one point in time. From these studies, we cannot really tell what came first – the verbal abuse or the mental health problems. It could be that parents did not know how to deal with, for instance, delinquent behaviours, and used harsh parenting techniques as a result.

My own research together with Dr Valerie Brandt examined the relationship between maltreatment of children and symptoms of inattention and hyperactivity. We found that it works in two directions. Maltreatment increased these symptoms, but these symptoms also made it more likely that the child would experience future maltreatment.

Overall, though, this well-designed systematic review is an important step towards a unified definition of child verbal abuse. Understanding what the problem is will help prevent harmful parenting in the future.

(By Dennis Golm, University of Southampton, The Conversation)

MIRRORLIGHTS

Could specialised diet help with long-term covid?

A new clinical trial is investigating whether a diet meant to reduce inflammation can be beneficial for those with long COVID.

Approximately 7 per cent of Americans have had protracted COVID, which is characterised by a variety of chronic health problems that occur after infection and recovery from COVID-19. Fatigue, brain fog, headaches, chest pain, heart palpitations, and other symptoms may occur.

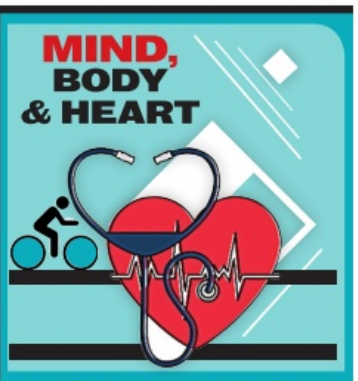
There is currently no established cure for the illness, and the mechanisms that produce it are unknown.

The premise of the trial revolves around recent research indicating that long COVID may be caused by a hyper inflammatory response that becomes activated during COVID-19 as the body fights off the virus but, in some people, does not recede even after the infection has passed. High inflammation levels in the body can lead to organ damage and other health problems.

"We are examining if food choice can quiet the body's inflammatory response and in doing so,

effectively minimize or curtail long COVID symptoms," said Adupa Rao, MD, an investigator of the clinical trial and medical director of the Keck Medicine Covid Recovery Clinic.

The study will examine the anti-inflammatory effect of a low-carbohydrate diet to lower blood glucose (sugar) levels in combination with a medical food that raises blood ketone levels. Ketones, including beta-hydroxybutyrate, the active ketone in this food, are chemicals the body produces to provide energy when the body is low on carbohydrates and sugars. A low-carb diet and ketones have both been associated with reduced inflammation in the body. **— ANI**



All you need to know about...

Maternal obesity

Cardiovascular disease
Obesity before or during pregnancy is the actual indicator of future cardiovascular disease, finds a study.

Risk of developing heart disease later
The study showed that the obesity plays a larger role than pregnancy complications such as preeclampsia and gestational diabetes increasing risk of developing heart disease later in life.

Clear indicator
"We demonstrate, for the first time, that adverse pregnancy outcomes are primarily indicators-- and not the root cause--of future heart health," said corresponding author Sadiya Khan, the Magerstadt Professor of Cardiovascular Epidemiology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. "This means that pregnancy just reveals the risk for heart disease that is already there," Khan added.

Compared to normal BMI
The findings, published in the journal Circulation Research, showed that compared to those with a normal BMI in early pregnancy, individuals with overweight or obese BMI had a higher risk of developing hypertensive disorders of pregnancy.

Zero trimester
A major throughline of Khan's research is the idea of the "Zero trimester," or pre-pregnancy health. By improving health during this critical time in an individual's life, they can improve outcomes for not only their pregnancy and baby but for their personal long-term health, Khan said. However, it can be difficult to target people before becoming pregnant, Khan said. So, early in the pregnancy may be an opportune time to counsel on heart-healthy habits like diet and exercise when people are more likely to be interacting with clinicians during prenatal visits. **—IANS**

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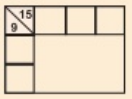
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

If a hospital has 360 doctors and nurses, and the ratio of doctors to nurses is 7 to 11, how many nurses are there?

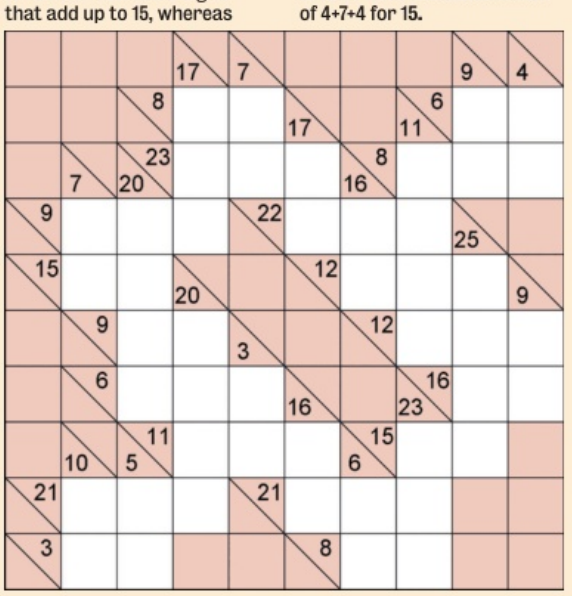
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas



for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



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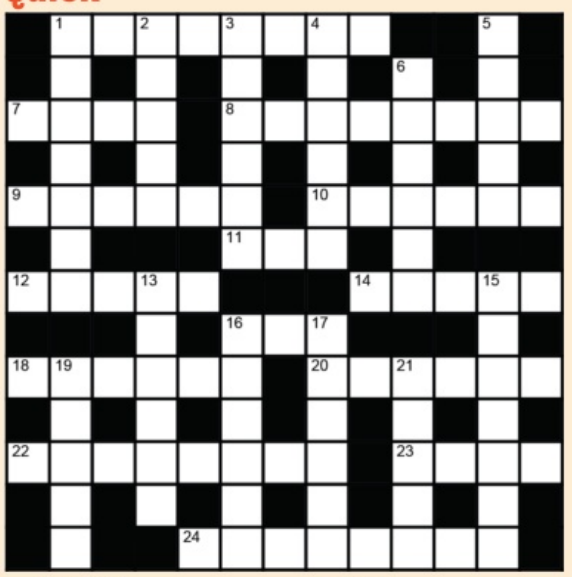


ACROSS

1 Orders or instructs (8)
7 Artful dodge (4)
8 Fabric (8)
9 Supplants (6)
10 Foot part (6)
11 Large cask (3)
12 Circular bands (5)
14 Unburnt sun-dried brick (5)
16 Hail as to Maria (3)
18 Motif or blueprint (6)
20 Still batting (3,3)
22 Leonardo da Vinci's painting (4,4)
23 Give off (4)
24 Playback singer __ Kapoor (8)

DOWN

1 Gigantic statues (7)
2 City official (5)
3 Nearly (6)
4 Keep in custody (6)
5 Lifting machine (5)
6 Deleted (6)
13 The Sandman author (6)
15 Movie theatre in Gandhi Nagar (7)
16 ___ pectoris : a sort of heart ailment? (6)
17 Employ (6)
19 An era (5)
21 The raised part of a tyre (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: R EQUALS N

RA UKBXWMY AM VABXWMY BXPRE BXWPM ADR ZXPTH-MWR QJTG.

Linemaro

I like your facebook status

Mindchow

By trying, we can easily endure adversity. Another man's, I mean

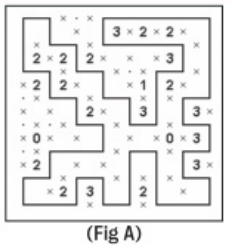
Joke of the day

Frisbeetarianism is the belief that when you die, your soul goes up on the roof and gets stuck

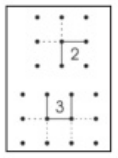
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

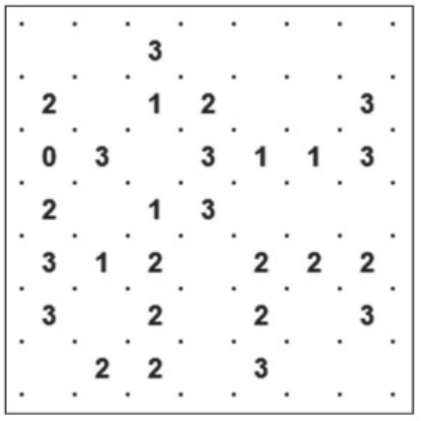


(Fig B) Not Allowed

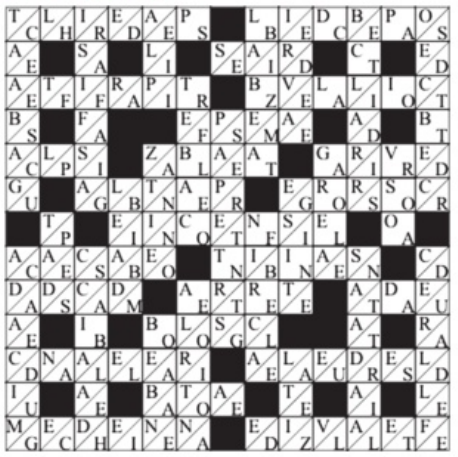
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



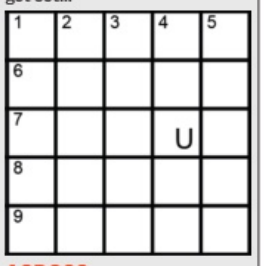
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Trust; 6 Hales; 7 U Nude; 8 Irons; 9 Re Pig

DOWN

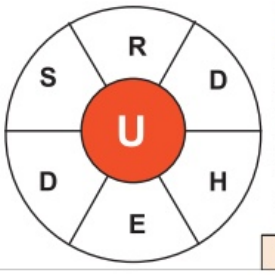
1 Lungs; 2 Toner; 3 Raid I; 4 Purus; 5 Sheet

Mensapuzzle

Start at one of the four corner letters and spiral clockwise round the perimeter, finishing at the centre letter to spell out a nine-letter word. You must provide the missing letters.

E	A	D
		I
P	A	

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

10 Average; 11 Good; 13 Outstanding

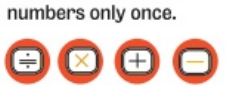
SudokuChallenge

		4	7			6		5
2		3		1	5		7	
	8							
8				7		5	4	3
4	3	7		9				8
							6	
	7		4	5		8		9
1		8			9	2		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy = 7

1 5 5 6

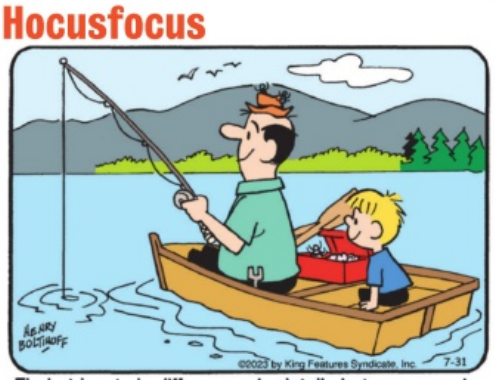
Medium = 5

1 2 6 9

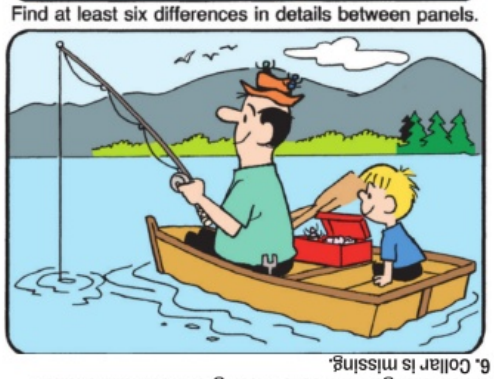
Hard = 5

3 5 6 4

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Boy is moved. 2. Oarlock is moved. 3. Hat is larger. 4. Tree is missing. 5. Mountain is taller. 6. Collar is missing.

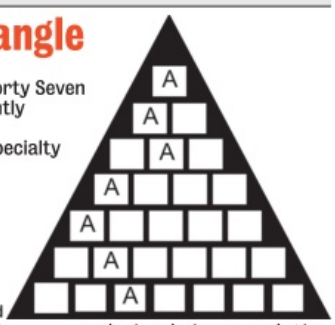
Riddler

A 3-letter word has been taken out of each of the following words. Can you figure it out?

___EON S___OT ___STY E___RAM

Alpha triangle

1 First letter
2 Atomic number Forty Seven
3 Find fault constantly
4 Hindu fire god
5 Gerontologist's specialty
6 Staring
7 Feeding on grass



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

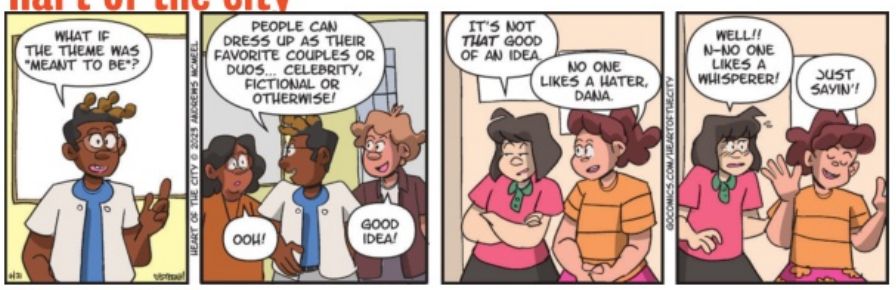
Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

HEY, SID! CAN YOU MAKE A HOT BUTTERED BUM?!
WHAT'S A HOT BUTTERED BUM?
IT'S A HOT BUTTERED RUM WITH A HOBO IN IT!
©2023 creators.com 7/31
www.creators.com

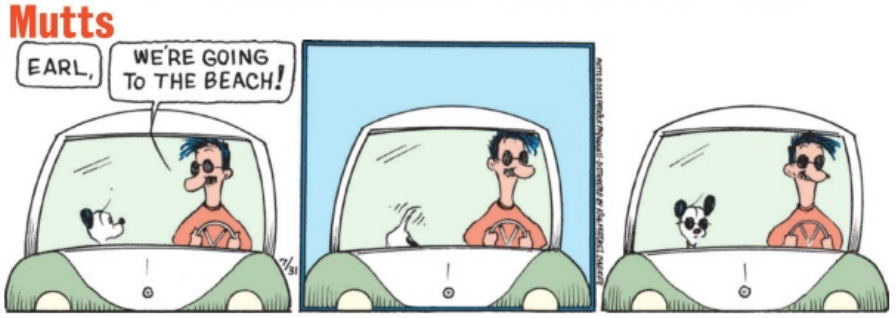
Hart of the city


WHAT IF THE THEME WAS "MEANT TO BE"?
PEOPLE CAN DRESS UP AS THEIR FAVORITE COUPLES OR DUOS... CELEBRITY, FICTIONAL OR OTHERWISE!
OOH!
GOOD IDEA!
IT'S NOT THAT GOOD OF AN IDEA.
NO ONE LIKES A HATER, DANA.
WELL!! N-NO ONE LIKES A WHISPERER!
JUST SAYIN'!

Crankshaft

WE DO HAVE ONE STOCK THAT WENT UP A DOLLAR A SHARE.
WE SHOULD SELL THOSE TEN SHARES... YOU ONLY NEED TO GET RICH ONCE!
NOT TO MENTION THAT ONLY A SUCKER STAYS IN FOR THE TOP!
RIGHT... THE HIGHER A MONKEY CLIMBS... THE MORE YOU SEE ITS BOTTOM!
A MORE COLORFUL WAY OF MAKING MY POINT!
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may be blessed by the moon. You may get a high position after your hard work. Your performance at work may be improved. You may also meet some influential person who may give you a good direction to improve your life. You may manage your domestic issues very easily, which may boost harmony in domestic life.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may be happy; things may be somehow better. You may plan to visit some religious place; it may give you inner strength. You may also consider donating some amount to a religious place or charity. You may expect some overseas travel in terms of education or work. Singles may find their suitable match and are likely to find a soul mate.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may feel unhappy and dull; it affects your way of working, and there may be some delays in your projects to be completed. It may affect your prestige in your professional and domestic life. It is advised to avoid adventure tours or rush driving. Lovebirds may experience a breakup. Job seekers may be disappointed in terms of finding a new job.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may feel a positive vibration around you. Things are under control. You may plan to start a new business in partnership. You may also expect some long-distance travel. You will build trust with your spouse, which will bring harmony to your domestic life.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may perform your best in the office. You may have a good bond with the boss, and you may be given new responsibilities in terms of a promotion. Chronic health issues may be cured now. You may also receive good incentives for your work. Disputes with your siblings may be resolved now, and job seekers may find a new job.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, your children's education may keep you busy, but you may also plan for their higher studies. Couples may receive good news regarding their children. You may consider updating your skills and making plans for higher studies to secure a promotion in your current job. Singles may find their soulmate. Natives related to education, consulting, and banking will perform better.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may feel dissatisfied and struggle to fulfil your responsibilities. Your investments may result in some losses. You are advised to read documents carefully before putting in your signature. Elders' health issues may upset you. You may be planning to reconstruct your house, but it is advisable to postpone the renovation for a while.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may be busy at work, and your network may expand. With the help of your network, you are likely to secure a significant order for your business and work. You may also consider starting an innovation in partnership. Furthermore, you may attract some investments for your business, which will contribute to its growth in the near future. Your emotional relationship with your spouse is expected to improve.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may be busy with your family, and you may feel happy enjoying time with family or friends. You may also expect some new sources of income, which could boost your financial health. You may exercise control over your expenditures on worthless items and instead invest in worthwhile purchases that can enhance your social status.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, the elder's blessings may help you, and you may try to improve your patience. Your focus may return, which can assist you in achieving your goals. You may perform well in terms of both business and domestic life. There may be a balance between expenditures and savings, which can boost your savings.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, some dissatisfaction may creep into your mind, and you may feel lazy and dull, which can affect the speed of your current project or work, leading to delays. Lovebirds are advised to avoid making any important decisions regarding marriage. Job seekers may face disappointments in their interviews.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, your inner strength may bring you happiness, and you may experience short-term gains in your investments. You may build a good relationship with your boss and could potentially receive some promotions. Your prestige in society may increase, and you may also anticipate some work-related travel.

KIDZONE

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S S Nidhi, 10 Years, MG School For Excellence

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Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
18 parts (7 parts doctors and 11 parts nurses) make up 360. Each part is 20
11x20 = 220

BULL'S EYE
dude, hued, rude, ruse, rush, rushed, SHUDDER, sued, sure, udder, used, user, usher

FAST FIVE

S	T	R	U	T
L	E	A	S	H
U	N	D	U	E
N	O	I	R	S
G	R	I	P	E

STRIKE OUT

M	E	D	I	N	A	D	I	L	A	T	E
U	E	A	T	E	I	L				
C	A	L	L	E	R	E	L	U	D	E	D
E	B	B	O	S	C	A	R			
A	D	A	M	A	T	E	T	A	U	
C	A	C	A	O	N	I	N	E	S	C
P	I	N	C	E	N	S	E	A		
G	A	L	T	E	R	E	R	O	R	
A	L	I	A	B	A	T	G	I	V	E
B	F	E	P	E	E	A	T			
A	F	A	I	R	Z	E	A	L	O	T
E	A	L	S	I	D	E				
T	H	R	E	E	S	B	I	C	E	P	S

QUICK

H		M	A	H	E	N	D	R	A	
C		N		N	G	A		K		
M	O	N	A	L	I	S	A		E	M	I	T
P		M		G		R		M		
D	E	S	I	G	N		N	O	T	O	U	T
		A				H				
R	I	N	G	S		A	D	O	B	E
		S		T	U	N		E		
U	S	U	R	P	S		I	N	S	T	E	P
		O		O		A		N		
P	L	O	Y		M	A	T	E	R	I	A	L
O		A		L		E		R		
C	O	M	M	A	N	D	S			

QUOTE UNCODE
No fathers or mothers think their own children ugly.

RIDDLER
Pig, Pigeon, Sigbot, Pigsty, Epigram

MENSA PUZZLE
DISAPPEAR.

SUDOKU

9	1	4	7	2	3	6	8	5
2	6	3	8	1	5	9	7	4
7	8	5	9	6	4	3	1	2
8	9	6	1	7	2	5	4	3
5	2	1	3	4	8	7	9	6
4	3	7	5	9	6	1	2	8
3	5	9	2	8	7	4	6	1
6	7	2	4	5	1	8	3	9
1	4	8	6	3	9	2	5	7

GO FIGURE
Easy
5 - 5 + 6 + 1 = 7
Medium
2 - 6 x 1 + 9 = 5
Hard
5 x 3 - 6 - 4 = 5

ALPHA TRIANGLE
A, Ag, Nag, Agni, Aging, Grazing, Grazings.

LOOP

KAKURO

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Real-life hero — Kangana Ranaut, who will be playing an Air Force Pilot in her upcoming film was all excited about getting a chance to meet Lt. Shivangi Singh, the first and only woman Rafale fighter pilot

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LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION, LADIES

Actresses who can pull off action stunts

Achieving the realism and credibility of kicks and punches in an action film demands precision while ensuring the safety of co-actors. Despite the fictional nature of action and fight sequences, a handful of women have made remarkable contributions alongside their male counterparts in Bollywood. More and more women now embrace action-packed roles, dedicating themselves to rigorous training for intense fight scenes and thrilling chase sequences. Let's take a look at some of them. —ETimes

Deepika Padukone

Deepika Padukone is taking action to the next level. She did some mind blowing action in Pathaan and with her upcoming film Fighter with Hrithik Roshan she's ready to take things aerial as she plays an Air Force Fighter in the film.

Katrina Kaif

Katrina and action have been synonyms since the day she has been part of Tiger franchise. Makers of the film recently released his action poster from the film, talking about it the actress said , "We wanted to take the action sequences to the next level this time and I have pushed my body to breaking point for the film and people will see that. Physically this has been my most challenging film yet."

Taapsee Pannu

Taapsee Pannu consistently astounds with her performances, particularly in action. Her unforgettable roles in "Baby" and its prequel "Naam Shabana" stand out as some of her finest work, eagerly awaiting her next action film.

Priyanka Chopra

Priyanka is widely hailed as the top action heroine. Her journey in action began with "Drona," followed by "Don" and "Quantico" in Hollywood.

Kriti Sanon

Kriti will be seen doing action for the first time in her upcoming film Ganpath- A Hero Is Born. In the trailer she can be seen jumping, kicking and beating up her enemies and using nunchaku with great ease.

On parenting, mental health

Canadian-American actor and film producer Ryan Reynolds got candid about parenting and his children's mental health, reported People.

"I think it's more about talking to them about everything," the actor, 46, told People at the Bring Change to Mind Revels & Revelations 11 event in New York City on Monday. "It's genuine when I say I take a huge interest in their days and how things are going."

Reynolds also opened up to People about how he and his wife Blake Lively stress the importance of "self-awareness" to their four kids as well as sharing details of their daily routines.

"For me, the best time of my day is walking them to school and walking them back," he says to PEOPLE at the event. "I think as parents, we are so much better equipped to handle the rigors of childhood through our kids now than when I was a kid. It's just totally different now. People are much more self-aware. And that's the thing we sort of hang our hat on the most is self-awareness with our kids. Not be happy, not be anything, just be self-aware and welcome everything in."

Reynolds and actress Lively, 36, share three daughters: James, 8, Inez, 7, and Betty, 4. They welcomed their fourth baby in February.

The 'Deadpool' star was honored with the Robin Williams' Legacy of Laughter Award at the event. Glenn Close and her family established the organization Bring Change to Mind in 2009 to fight the stigma of mental illness. Reynolds talked about how he and Lively were adjusting to life as a family of six shortly after the birth of their fourth kid. "Everybody's doing great. Everybody's doing fantastic," he continued. "I think if we hadn't figured it out by now, I think we'd be in deep, deep trouble." —IANS

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Conflict zone

Several new Kannada movies are being released or dubbed in other languages to have a Pan India reach. Inamdar is the latest to join this bandwagon.

The trailer of Inamdar was released recently. Prominent personalities such as Niranjan Shetty, Pramod Shetty, industrialist Karunakar Reddy, and MK Math released the trailer. The movie that is expected to release in Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and Hindi apart from Kannada is helmed by Sandesh Shetty Ajri and bankrolled by Niranjan Shetty Tallur under the Kuntiamma Production banner.

"The movie is about a racial conflict between the Inamdar family of North Karnataka and tribal people living in a forest in South Canara district. The movie has a tag line – Around a black beauty. It has been shot in Belagavi, Kundapura, and Chamarajanagar. The movie is scheduled for release on October 27 across the state," said Sandesh Shetty Ajri.

Chirashree Anchan plays the beauty in the movie while Pramod plays the character of Kalinga. "I play tribal leader Kalinga in the movie. I want all the movie goers to encourage this movie," said Pramod Shetty. Thanking Niranjan Shetty, Ranjan Chatrapathi said Niranjan had come forward to complete the movie as the earlier producer walked away from this movie.

Love on the border

A major part of the work on the movie Love Reddy that is about a love on the Karnataka-Andhra Pradesh border is over. Chikkaballapur MLA Pradeep Eashwar released the first glimpse of the movie at Kalavidara Sangha recently. Prior to this, Telugu actor Balakrishna had released the first glimpse of the Telugu version.

Anjan Ramachandra and Shravani are the lead pair in the movie.

"Anjan is from our district – Chikkaballapur from which Narayana Murthy of Infosys hails. Our district is known for prominent personalities including Varadaraju who wrote lyrics for big-budget movies. Love Reddy – is based on a real incident that took place in Chikkaballapur," said Eshwar.

Anjan recalled the hard work done by director Smaran Reddy. "I have acted in a few short films and web series. We worked as assistant directors for some movies. Many people have extended moral and financial support to us to make this movie," said Anjan.

Director Smaran said he hails from Hyderabad and has been associated with the film industry for the last seven years.